



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

JRE
Docket No: 5656-99
28 August 2000



Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code, section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 24 August 2000. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you were discharged from the Navy by reason of physical disability after being found unfit for duty because of the effects of a phobia, which existed prior to your service, and was not aggravated thereby. According to your medical board report, you had been locked in a closet by your stepmother as a childhood punishment, and that you had been fearful of entering closets or small dark spaces since then. You experienced a severe exacerbation of claustrophobia upon reporting to a ship after you completed entry level training. The evidence you submitted in support of your application was not considered probative of your contention that you do not suffer from a phobia. In this regard, the Board noted that the history you related to your medical expert is substantially different from what you disclosed to Navy physicians, and was not considered credible. When evaluated after you were discharged, however, you concealed your history of being abused by your stepmother, and denied ever having experienced symptoms of a phobia.

In view of the foregoing, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director